

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF REV.
DR. GARTHER ROBERSON, JR.

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Doctor Garther Roberson, Jr. of Ypsilanti, Michigan. His lifetime of service and dedication to our community is worthy of commendation.

Rev. Roberson was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on August 1, 1927, the fifth child of Pastor Garther Roberson, Sr. and Estella Roberson. He attended Ypsilanti Public Schools and after graduation in 1948, went on to serve his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. He earned the Korean Services Medals of Honor with the Bronze Star and an Overseas Bar. Rev. Roberson was educated at Washtenaw Community College, Moody Bible College, Trinity College, and William Tyndale College. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Tennessee School of Religion (Ypsilanti Extension) in 1999.

As a member of the Second Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, he served as director of the youth department, Sunday school superintendent, and as Deacon until he was called to serve as Reverend in 1979. Rev. Roberson also served as Pastor at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. He was known for his love for the community and the people he served. His warmth and joyful personality led to him being a trusted confidante for not only the congregation of his church, but for local youth and community leaders as well.

A leader not only in the faith community, Rev. Roberson was a fixture in Washtenaw County, serving as President of the Minister's Alliance and as President for Joint Operational Services for a Human Urban Alliance (JOSH-UA). Rev. Roberson was the longest serving member of the Minister's Alliance and was presented with a Congregational Certificate of Honor Founder's Day Award by Pastor Phillip Farrell. In 1996, he was chosen to deliver the Invocation for former President William Jefferson Clinton during his visit to Eastern Michigan University. Additionally, he served on the boards of the NAACP, Hope Clinic, the Students and Friends of Washtenaw County Community College, and the Huron Valley District Christian Academy. Many honors bear his name; In Ypsilanti, March 15th to 17th is known as "Reverend Garther Roberson, Jr. Week" and April 4, 2003 is known as "Garther Roberson Day" and each year, JOSHUA awards the "Rev. Dr. Garther Roberson Community Leadership Award" to outstanding leaders in the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Reverend Doctor Garther Roberson, Jr., a pillar of our community, a native son of Ypsilanti, and a man of true faith. He will be deeply missed but has left behind a lasting legacy. Our thoughts are

with his friends, family, and congregation at this time.

WILLIAM (BILL) FRANCIS HOOVER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William (Bill) Francis Hoover of Aurora, Colorado who passed away May 1, 2021.

Bill was born and raised on his family's farm in Topeka, Kansas as the third of five children. Bill joined the United States Air Force in 1950 and rose to the rank of Major in 1965. While stationed in Tennessee, Bill met the love of his life, Sue. They were married in 1960.

Bill served with honor and distinction in the U.S. Air Force. He served in Korea, Vietnam and Cold War operations across the world. He was awarded numerous commendations, including one of the Air Force's highest awards, the Distinguished Flying Cross. He earned this medal during the Vietnam War for his actions as Aircraft Commander of an AC-119 gunship. Under great personal risk and during terrible weather conditions in mountainous terrain, he and his crew repelled an attack, saving the lives of the troops who were at risk of being overrun by North Vietnamese Forces. He retired from the Air Force in November 1970.

Following his career in the Air Force, he flew Lear Jets out of Columbus Airport, but soon realized it took him away from his family too much, and he began a second career working for the Federal Aviation Administration. He was stationed in Rawlins, Wyoming, where he was able to teach his children to hunt and fish while he kept flying as a Certified Flight Instructor. Bill and his family then moved to Aurora, Colorado in 1977. His experience and knowledge was again put to use, as he served on the FAA's Air Traffic Procedures Advisory Committee to develop aviation safety and operation regulations. Bill retired from the FAA after 20 years of service to the government. After retiring, Bill and Sue traveled the world, often with family and friends. They were inseparable, enjoying a life of adventure.

Bill was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He and his wife Sue raised five children—Bill, David, Lori, John and Theresa. He was especially fond of his seventeen grandchildren and loved and cherished his five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his career in the Air Force, Bill was a devoted member of Queen of Peace Catholic Parish. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus as a fourth-degree knight. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE OF DOROTHY M. SWEENEY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to recognize the remarkable life of Mrs. Dorothy M. Sweeney, who left our earthly bounds on April 7, 2021. "Mother Sweeney," as she affectionately was called, leaves behind an eternal and meaningful legacy not only to her family and loved ones, but to the entire York County Community.

Mother Sweeney's life began on January 16, 1934, born to Eddie and Rhoda Hawkins. She was the youngest child—and only girl—in a household of older brothers, Edward Jr., Clyde, and Herman.

Mother Sweeney married Arthur Sweeney in 1951, when they planted their roots in York. Together, they raised four wonderful children—Takanii, Tomoa Tanya, Tanoue Onishi, and Arleta Maria—with a resilient sense of love and respect for their legacy.

After a tragic work-related accident claimed the life of her beloved husband, Mother Sweeney was thrust into single parenthood. As obstacles were placed along her path, she persevered—like her mother, Rhoda Hawkins.

Mother Sweeney would go on to graduate from York College with a degree in Nursing, all while managing a household of four beautiful, albeit sometimes unruly, children. She raised her children with a strong and powerful image of womanhood. She served as the head nurse at York County Homes, and as a private duty nurse while also volunteering for the local PTA—later serving as its president for over six years. She would go on to accept a position with Lincoln Intermediate Unit No. 12 as a teacher for special needs children.

Mother Sweeney made sure that her children knew their elders and family history, making sure to surround her daughters with family and love, as well as a connection to their roots. Her family soon began to grow, as her daughters welcomed children of their own. Her oldest, Takanii, had 11 children (Damaine, Tak, Takakhan, Asaii, Ishni, Kiya, Azijah, Adonysha, Zebulon, Masata, and Amasa), Tomoa had four children (Angela, Yahselah, Nashon, and Ashir), Tanoue had one son (Emneko), and Arleta had five children (Tazaa, Taza Todd, Tyleta, T-Hara, and Tynaketa).

When Mother Sweeney retired professionally, she certainly was kept busy with 21 grandchildren—and all the birthdays, holidays, and celebrations a large family brings. When asked about the number of great-grandchildren she has, Dorothy's response was, "after 10, I stopped counting." The branches of her great family tree have continued to grow with 45 great-grandchildren—and counting.

Mother Sweeney was always an energetic and active young lady, serving her family, church, and community. As a faithful and dedicated member of Emmanuel COGIC in York—

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